

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) for a disc brake (1) that can be associated with a caliper (2) with thrust means (9a, 9b, 9c) for clamping said brake pad (5) with friction against a braking band (4) of a brake disc (41), wherein the brake pad (5) comprises:

- a plate (6) with a central portion (11) provided with a layer of friction material (7), said central portion (11) having an upper edge (12) and an opposed lower edge (13) and also two lateral edges (6a, 6b);
- two support appendages (14) which extend from said lateral edges (6a, 6b) of the central portion (11), each of said support appendages (14) bounding an eye (16) capable of receiving a pin (27) of the caliper (2),

wherein said upper edge (12) and lower edge (13) extend substantially along circumferences of a circle imparting an arcuate shape to the central portion (11), and said support appendages (14) are disposed substantially at the height of said lower edge (13) of said brake pad (5).

2. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein said central portion (11) forms together with the support appendages (14) an Omega "Ω"-shaped structure.

3. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein the lateral edges (6a, 6b) are substantially rectilinear, parallel and perpendicular to a direction (Ts)

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tangential to said upper edge (12) at a point halfway between said lateral edges (6a, 6b).

4. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 3, wherein the support appendages (14) extend substantially perpendicularly to the lateral edges (6a, 6b).

5. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein each of the support appendages (14) comprises an upper surface (15) facing in the same direction as the upper edge (12) and capable of constituting a bearing surface for a brake pad spring element (10).

6. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 5, wherein said upper surfaces (15) are substantially flat and parallel to the direction (Ts) tangential to the upper edge (12) at a point halfway between the lateral edges (6a, 6b).

7. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein said eyes (16) have a substantially rectangular shape with the corners rounded or chamfered.

8. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein the eyes (16) are disposed substantially on a tangent (Ti) to the lower edge (13) at a point halfway between the lateral edges (6a, 6b).

9. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, wherein from each of the lateral edges (6a, 6b) there extends near the upper edge (12) a protuberance (17) which forms a prolongation of the upper edge (12) outside the central portion (11), said protuberances (17) comprising a bearing surface (18) which constitutes an opposing surface for a brake pad spring element (10).

10. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 9, wherein said bearing surfaces (18) are inclined with respect to the tangents (Ts) and (Ti) to the upper edge (12) and

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lower edge (13) of the central portion (11), so as to allow the brake pad spring elements abutting on them to exert a resilient thrust towards the central portion (11).

11. (currently amended) A brake pad (5) according to claim 1, having a symmetrical shape.

12. (currently amended) A caliper (2) for a disc brake (1) comprising thrust means (9a, 9b, 9c) for clamping at least two brake pads (5) with friction against a braking band (4) of a brake disc (41), wherein said caliper (2) comprises at least two seats (8) for receiving said brake pads (5), each of said seats (8) comprising:

- a central space (19) bounded by a connecting member (20) which connects the two lateral walls (3) of the caliper (2) and a lower edge (21) of the lateral wall (3) opposed to the aforesaid connecting member (20), and also, laterally, by two containment walls (22a, 22b);
- two outer spaces (26a, 26b) which extend laterally from the central space (19), there being arranged in each of said outer spaces (26a, 26b) a pin (27) capable of engaging a respective eye (16) of said brake pad (5),

wherein both the connecting member (20) and the lower edge (21) extend along circumferences of a circle, imparting an arcuate shape to the central space (19), and said outer spaces (26a, 26b) are disposed substantially at the height of said lower edge (21) of the caliper (2).

13. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 12, wherein said seat formed by the arcuate central space (19) together with the outer spaces (26a, 26b) has a substantially Omega "Ω"-shape.

14. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 12, wherein the seats (8) at the lower edge (21) are open towards the outside of the caliper (2) and devoid of opposing or

bearing surfaces which may prevent displacement of the brake pad (5).

15. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 12, wherein each of said containment walls (22a, 22b) constitutes a seat for a brake pad spring element (10) and has an upper surface (23a, 23b) facing radially outwards with respect to the axis of rotation (F) of the brake disc (41) and inclined towards the inside of the central space (19).

16. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 15, wherein the upper surfaces (23a, 23b) are substantially flat and lie in planes (P) which intersect the lower edge (21) at a point halfway between the two containment walls (22a, 22b).

17. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 15, wherein each of said containment walls (22a, 22b) has a lower surface (25a, 25b) disposed on the side of the containment walls (22a, 22b) opposed to the upper surfaces (23a, 23b) and facing in the same direction as the lower edge (21) of the lateral wall (3).

18. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 17, wherein the lower surfaces (25a, 25b) are substantially flat and extend in a direction parallel to the directions tangential to the connecting member (20) and to the lower edge (21) at a point halfway between the containment walls (22a, 22b).

19. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 18, wherein said lower surfaces (25a, 25b) of the containment walls (22a, 22b) bound at the top said outer spaces (26a, 26b) containing the pins (27).

20. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 12, wherein said pins (27) are obtained separately from the caliper (2) and then connected thereto.

21. (currently amended) A caliper (2) according to claim 12, wherein the longitudinal

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axes of the two pins ~~(27)~~ of each seat ~~(8)~~ lie approximately in a plane tangent to the lower edge ~~(21)~~ of the respective lateral wall ~~(3)~~ at a point halfway between the two containment walls ~~(22a, 22b)~~.

22. (currently amended) A caliper ~~(20)~~ according to claim 15, wherein from said upper surfaces ~~(23a, 23b)~~ of the containment walls ~~(22a, 22b)~~ a stop tooth ~~(28)~~ protrudes which is capable of engaging a suitable recess of the brake pad spring element ~~(10)~~ to secure the latter on the containment wall ~~(22a, 22b)~~.

23. (currently amended) A caliper ~~(2)~~ according to claim 22, wherein said stop tooth ~~(28)~~ is spaced from the surface of the seat ~~(8)~~ so as to delimit between the latter and the stop tooth ~~(28)~~ a passage for the brake pad spring element ~~(10)~~.

24. (currently amended) A caliper ~~(2)~~ according to claim 17, wherein each of the lower surfaces ~~(25a, 25b)~~ of the containment walls ~~(22a, 22b)~~ has a recess ~~(29)~~ capable of receiving a protuberance of said brake pad spring element ~~(10)~~.

25. (currently amended) A caliper ~~(2)~~ according to claim 12, wherein said caliper is a fixed caliper.

26. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ comprising a caliper ~~(2)~~ comprising thrust means ~~(9a, 9b, 9e)~~ for clamping at least two brake pads ~~(5)~~ with friction against a braking band ~~(4)~~ of a brake disc ~~(41)~~, wherein said caliper ~~(2)~~ comprises at least two seats ~~(8)~~ for receiving said brake pads ~~(5)~~, each of said seats ~~(8)~~ comprising:

- a central space ~~(19)~~ bounded by a connecting member ~~(20)~~ which connects the two lateral walls ~~(3)~~ of the caliper ~~(2)~~ and a lower edge ~~(21)~~ of the lateral wall ~~(3)~~ opposed to the aforesaid connecting member ~~(20)~~, and also, laterally, by two containment walls ~~(22a, 22b)~~;

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- two outer spaces ~~(26a, 26b)~~ which extend laterally from the central space (19), there being arranged in each of said outer spaces ~~(26a, 26b)~~ a pin (27) capable of engaging a respective eye (16) of said brake pad (5),

wherein both the connecting member (20) and the lower edge (21) extend along circumferences of a circle, imparting an arcuate shape to the central space (19), and said outer spaces ~~(26a, 26b)~~ are disposed substantially at the height of said lower edge (21) of the caliper (2),

and said disk brake (1) further comprising:

a brake pad (5) that can be associated with said caliper, wherein the brake pad (5) comprises:

- a plate (6) with a central portion (11) provided with a layer of friction material (7), said central portion (11) having an upper edge (12) and an opposed lower edge (13) and also two lateral edges ~~(6a, 6b)~~;

- two support appendages (14) which extend from said lateral edges ~~(6a, 6b)~~ of the central portion (11), each of said support appendages (14) bounding an eye (16) capable of receiving a pin (27) of the caliper (2),

wherein said upper edge (12) and lower edge (13) extend substantially along circumferences of a circle imparting an arcuate shape to the central portion (11), and said support appendages (14) are disposed substantially at the height of said lower edge (13) of said brake pad (5).

27. (currently amended) A disc brake (1)—according to claim 26, wherein the chamfering radius of the eyes (16)—is less than the radius of the cylindrical pins (27)—so that the mutual bearing between the pin and the chamfered corner of the eye (16)—occurs at two points of contact.

28. (currently amended) A disc brake (1)—according to claim 27, wherein the material

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of the plate (6) of the brake pad (5) is suitable for undergoing plastic deformation within certain limits, such as to adapt the shape of the eye (16) in the region of contact with the pin (27) of the caliper (2) exactly to the shape of the pin (27).

29. (currently amended) A disc brake (1) according to claim 27, equipped with one or more brake pad spring elements (10), wherein each of said spring elements (10) comprises an elongate plate (30) of resilient material, which plate (30) is bent so as to form a "C"-shaped base (31), preferably rectangular or trapezoidal, or alternatively arcuate, said base (31) being capable of tightening resiliently about said containment wall (22a, 22b) of the caliper (2).

30. (currently amended) A disc brake (1) according to claim 29, wherein the base (31) of the brake pad spring element (10) is in the shape of a trapezium open along the major base and shaped so as to be substantially complementary to the shape of the containment wall (22a, 22b).

31. (currently amended) A disc brake (1) according to claim 29, wherein an upper section (31b) of said base (31) has a recess (32) capable of receiving a tooth (28) formed on the containment wall (22a, 22b) of the caliper (2).

32. (currently amended) A disc brake (1) according to claim 31, wherein said recess (32) is formed by a notch transverse to the length of the plate (30) which involves only a part of the width of the plate (30) so that a bridge (33) remains which ensures the structural continuity of the spring element (10) in the region of the recess (32).

33. (currently amended) A disc brake (1) according to claim 32, wherein at the two opposed sides of the recess (32) two limbs (34) are formed which are bent back so as to constitute opposing walls capable of bearing from two opposed sides against said tooth (28) of the caliper (2), while the bridge (33) can be positioned in a space between the tooth (28) and the

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lateral wall ~~(3)~~ of the caliper ~~(2)~~.

34. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein a lower section ~~(31e)~~ of said base ~~(31)~~ has a protuberance ~~(35)~~ capable of engaging a recess ~~(29)~~ provided in the containment wall ~~(22a, 22b)~~ of the caliper ~~(2)~~.

35. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 34, wherein the protuberance ~~(35)~~ of the spring element ~~(10)~~ has been obtained by means of local deformation of the plate ~~(30)~~, for example by means of punching or shearing and bending.

36. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 34, wherein the protuberance ~~(35)~~ is formed by a limb of the spring element ~~(10)~~ bent back towards the inside of the base ~~(31)~~.

37. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein from the upper side ~~(31b)~~ and lower side ~~(31e)~~ of the base ~~(31)~~ of the spring element ~~(10)~~ there extend respective pressure sections, upper ~~(37b)~~ and lower ~~(37e)~~, capable of biasing the brake pad ~~(5)~~ resiliently so as to hold it in its position in the seat ~~(8)~~.

38. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 37, wherein the upper pressure section ~~(37b)~~ and lower pressure section ~~(37e)~~ are bent back with respect to the adjacent upper side ~~(31b)~~ and lower side ~~(31e)~~ of the base ~~(31)~~ and extend in a direction substantially opposed to these latter.

39. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 38, wherein the upper pressure section ~~(37b)~~ and lower pressure section ~~(37e)~~ are oriented towards the closed side of the base ~~(31)~~.

40. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein each

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pressure section ~~(37b, 37e)~~ of the spring element ~~(10)~~ forms together with the adjacent lateral section ~~(31b, 31e)~~ of the base ~~(31)~~ a resilient arc, the elastic deformation of which is capable of forming, with the spring element ~~(10)~~ mounted, a resilient bias acting on the brake pad ~~(5)~~.

41. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein the brake pad spring element ~~(10)~~ has an overall shape similar to the letter "ζ" (lower case Greek letter *zeta*) or to its mirror image.

42. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein the brake pad spring element ~~(10)~~ has an overall shape similar to the letter "Σ" (upper case Greek letter *Sigma*) or to its mirror image.

43. (currently amended) A disc brake ~~(1)~~ according to claim 29, wherein each seat ~~(8)~~ of the caliper has associated with it two brake pad spring elements ~~(10)~~ which have a structure and shape which is chiral, that is to say, mirror-image but not superimposable.